CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic processing device, comprising:
   (a) a user interface to interact with a user;
   (b) location detection electronics;
   (c) processing electronics connected to the user interface and the location detection electronics;
   (d) memory to store a plurality of functions/applications associated with a plurality of geographic regions, the memory connected to the processing electronics;
   (e) a gatekeeper to allow access to at least one application/function only when the electronic processing device is within an associated one of the plurality of geographic locations based solely on the associated geographic location.

2. A method to access an application/function in an electronic processing device, comprising the steps of:

(a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;

(b) entering a description of a first geographic location;

(c) associating at least one application/function of the electronic processing device with the first geographic region;

(d) enabling a user to access the at least one application/function of the electronic device only when the electronic device is in the first geographic region based solely on whether the electronic processing device is within the geographic region associated with the at least one application/function.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises:

(a) obtaining the GPS location from GPS processing electronics within the electronic processing device; and

(b) creating boundaries by extending a selected distance from the GPS location.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises:

(a) delineating the boundaries of the first geographic region using a graphical user interface on a map containing the first geographic region.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises entering the longitude and latitude coordinates of the boundaries of the geographic region.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises entering a street address associated with a geographic region.

7. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
(a) entering a description of a second geographic region;
(b) associating a second application/function with the second geographic region.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
(a) assigning a priority to the first and second geographic region.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
(a) assigning a priority to the first and second application/function.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of enabling a user to access information within the electronic device when the electronic device is in the first geographic region further comprises determining the present location of the electronic device using GPS signals processed by GPS processing electronics within the electronic device.

11. A method to restrict access to an application/function of an electronic processing device, comprising the steps of:
(a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;
(b) determining the present location of the electronic processing device;
(c) invoking an application/function of the electronic processing device;
(d) restricting access to the application/function of the electronic processing device solely because the electronic processing device

is not within a geographic region associated with the application/function; and

(e) sending a message to abort the application/function whenever the electronic processing device is moved out of the associated geographic region.

12. A method to protect an electronic processing device from unauthorized use, comprising the steps of:

(a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;

(b) entering a description of at least one geographic location by a method selected from the group of methods consisting of: obtaining the GPS location from GPS processing electronics within the electronic processing device and creating boundaries by extending a selected distance from the GPS location, delineating the boundaries of the first geographic region using a graphical user interface on a map containing the first geographic region, entering the longitude and latitude of the boundaries of the geographic region, and entering a street address associated with a geographic region;

(c) invoking at least one application/function stored on the electronic processing device;

(d) associating each of the at least one application/function with one of the at least one geographic region;

(e) determining the present location of the electronic processing device using GPS signals processed by GPS processing electronics within the electronic processing device;

(f) assigning priority to the at least one geographic region;

(g) allowing the user to use the at least one application/function in the at least one geographic region solely because the at least

one geographic region is the geographic region associated with the at least one application/function;

(h) indicating that the electronic processing device has moved out of the associated geographic region; and

(i) notifying a user that the application/function should be aborted.

13. An article of manufacture, comprising a data storage medium tangibly embodying a program of machine readable instructions executable by an electronic processing apparatus to perform method steps for operating the electronic processing apparatus, said method steps comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a plurality of descriptions of geographic regions;

(b) storing a plurality of applications/functions, each associated with one or more of the descriptions of geographic regions;

(c) assigning a priority to each of the plurality of descriptions of geographic regions;

(d) determining the present location of the electronic processing device; and

(e) allowing a user to use an application/function of the electronic processing device in the present location solely because the present location is within the description of the geographic region associated with the application/function.

14. A secure electronic processing device, comprising:

(a) means to store a plurality of descriptions of geographic locations in which said secure electronic processing device may be used;

(b) means to store a plurality of geographic-specific applications/functions, each of said geographic-specific

applications/functions associated with at least one of said geographic locations;

(c) means to determine the present location of said electronic processing device;

(d) means to determine that said present location is one of said geographic locations;

(e) means to invoke a geographic-specific application/function;

(f) means to allow access to the invoked geographic-specific application/function solely because the present location is one of said geographic locations associated with the invoked application/function.

15. The secure electronic processing device of claim 14, wherein the means to determine that said present location is one of said geographic locations further comprises a GPS antenna and GPS processing electronics.

16. The secure electronic processing device of claim 15, further comprising means to abort the invoked application/function solely because the present location is not one of said geographic locations associated with the invoked geographic-specific application/function.